

## BOOK REVIEW

LAURENCE PARENT (photographs) and JOE NICK PATOSKI (text). 2001. **Texas Mountains.** (ISBN 0-292-76592-4, hbk.). University of Texas Press, P.O. Box 7819, Austin, TX 78713-7819, U.S.A. (Orders: <http://www.utexas.edu/utpress>, 512-471-4032). \$39.95 hbk., 156 pp., 120 color photos, 10" × 11".

As a child, this reviewer was captivated by the high rugged mountains of Colorado and Wyoming. As an adult, a trip to Big Bend National Park was so inspiring that it resulted in a major career change, many subsequent trips to the area, and a love for all aspects of the natural history of wild places. This beautiful book with photographs by Laurence Parent and text by Nick Patoski, takes the reader on an incredible journey to the breathtaking region of the Trans-Pecos in far west Texas. The combination of photographs and prose describe places that are both rugged and beautiful, and much more enticing than the over-exploited areas of the intermountain west. I looked at the details in every picture, and found myself delighted every time I came upon a particular view and could say, "Wow! I've been there."

Parent's photographs capture the mountains and the vegetation of the Trans-Pecos in all of their glory through the seasons. The vibrant reds, oranges and yellows of a desert sunset or sunrise are contrasted with the rich shades of greens of the rivers, canyons and high mountain forests. The breathtaking agoraphobic views complement photographs of rocky pinnacles, Ponderosa pine forests and the myriad of strange and unusual desert plants.

Patoski's text provides a glimpse into the lives of the rugged individuals who inhabit these beautiful and remote parts of Texas. Interviews with people who are relative newcomers to the region as well as those who have made the Trans-Pecos their home for generations, provide insight into what draws people to live and work in places that are considered by some to be desolate and remote. A love of the land is evident in all of the people Patoski came to know through this work.

If you love mountains, if you love the west, if you love wide open spaces and the concepts of self-reliance and individual freedom you will love this book.—*Debra K. Trock, Botanical Research Institute of Texas, 509 Pecan, Fort Worth, TX 76102-4060, U.S.A., dtrock@brit.org.*